

MARVEL
COMICS

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DAREDEVIL®

SEPT '96 356

DAREDEVIL®

KILLER IN THE DARK!



BURDEN OF PROOF



DON'T
DO ANYTHING
YOU'LL **REGRET**,
DAREDEVIL!

MACHINE OIL AND GUNPOWDER.
COLD, HARD STEEL. A PULSE
AS CALM AS THE EYE OF A
HURRICANE.

RECIPE FOR
DISASTER.

AND MY DAY GOT OFF
TO SUCH A **GOOD**
START, TOO...

STAN LEE PRESENTS ANOTHER SUSPENSE-FILLED
STORY OF THE **SCARLET SHASHBUCKLER!**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ...

KARL KESEL - WRITER

SAL BUSCEMA - LAYOUTS, Pgs. 1-13, 22-31

CARY NORD - PENCILS, Pgs. 1-13, 22-31

RICK LEONARDI - PENCILS, Pgs. 14-21

MATT RYAN - INKS

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BOB HARRAS - CHIEF

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... AT THE
FEDERAL
PRISON.

...THEY'RE
CHARGING YOU
WITH KIDNAPPING,
TOO.

NO!

THEY CAN'T!
I WON'T LET
THEM.

GAHH!

SMASH

VERY
IMPRESSION,
HYDE!

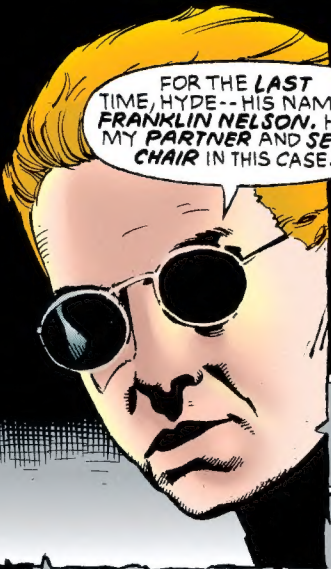
I'M SURE
OUTBURSTS LIKE THAT
WILL CONVINCE THE
JURY YOU COULD'VE
NEVER KILLED ANGELA
PARISH.

MATT!
DON'T PROVOKE
HIM, MATT!

HEH HEH HEH!

JUST TRYING TO
KEEP THINGS INTERESTING/
COUNSELOR. TOO BAD YOU'RE
BLIND--BUT YOUR FAT
FRIEND CAME THROUGH
WITH FLYING COLORS--

--YELLOW
TO THE
BONE!



FOR THE LAST TIME, HYDE--HIS NAME'S FRANKLIN NELSON. HE'S MY PARTNER AND SECOND CHAIR IN THIS CASE...

... AND A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF DAREDEVIL!

GRRRR!

I HAVE NO LOVE FOR DAREDEVIL, MR. MURDOCK-- OR PARTNERS...

...MR. NELSON!

I PREFER TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY OWN ACTIONS! IT ALLOWS ME TO PLAN AHEAD!

FOR INSTANCE--IN BOX 666 OF THE BOWERY POST OFFICE YOU'LL FIND A HAND-WRITTEN LETTER FROM ANGELA PARISH TO ME!



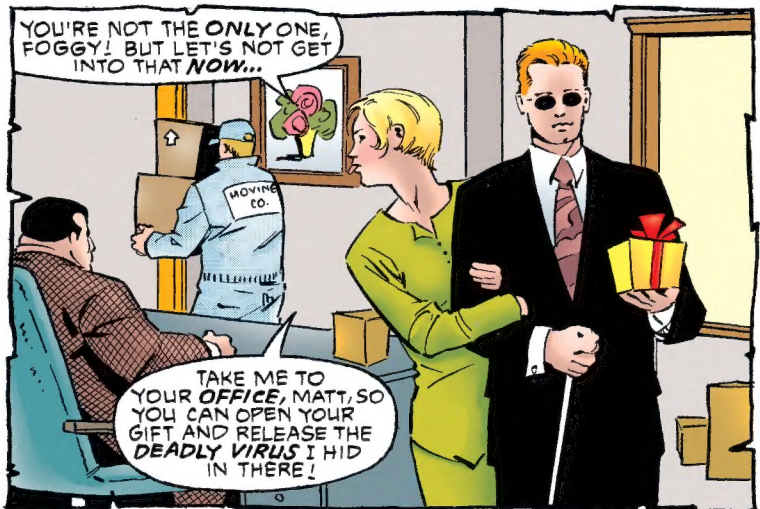
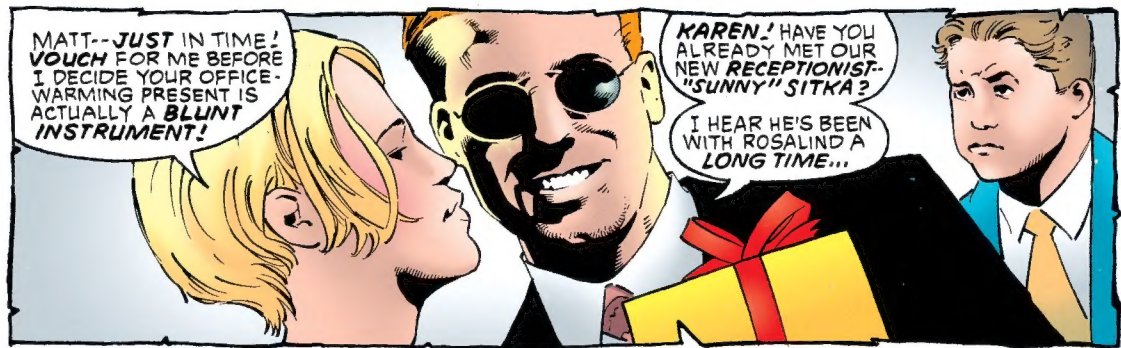
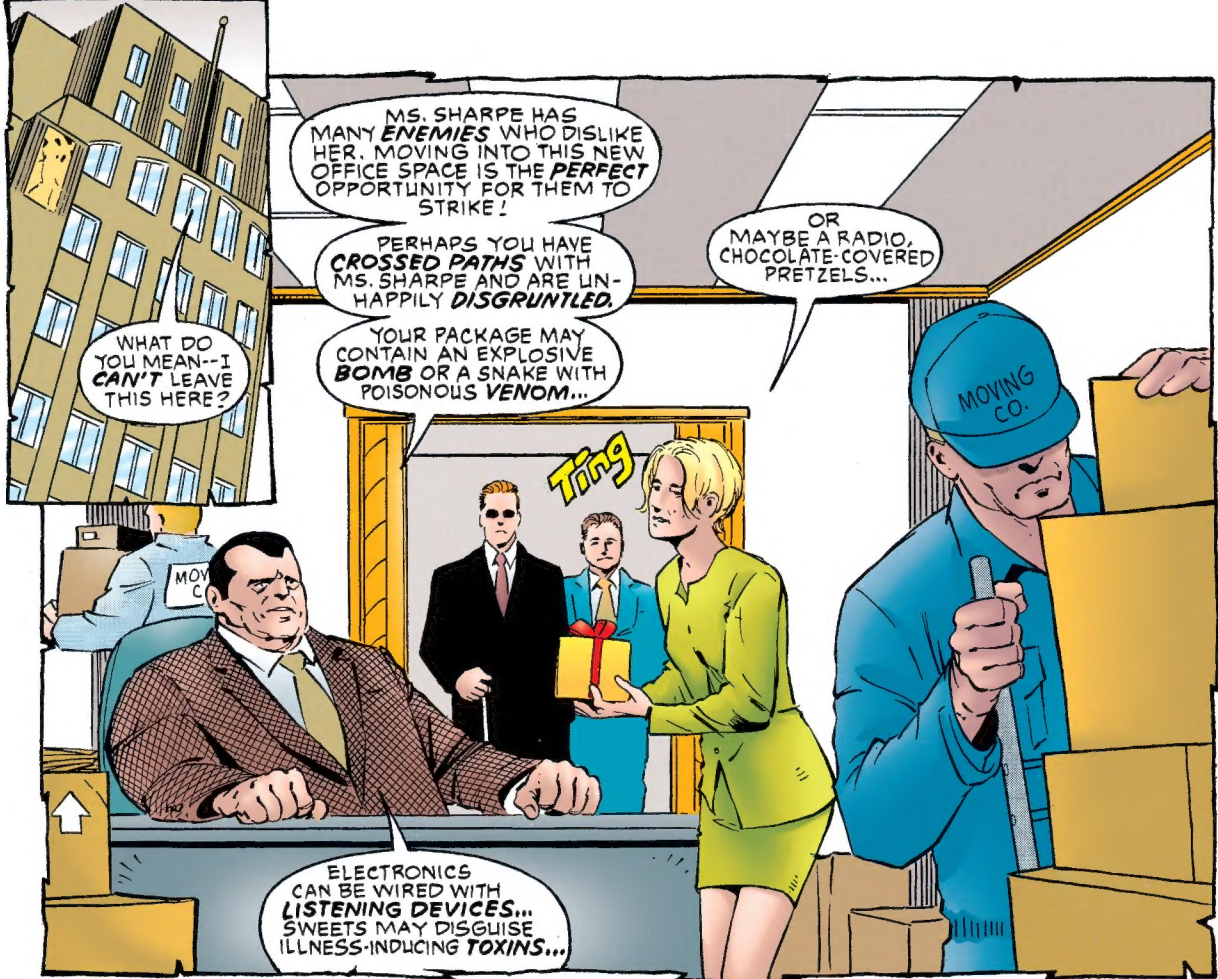
REGISTERED MAIL--NEVER OPENED!

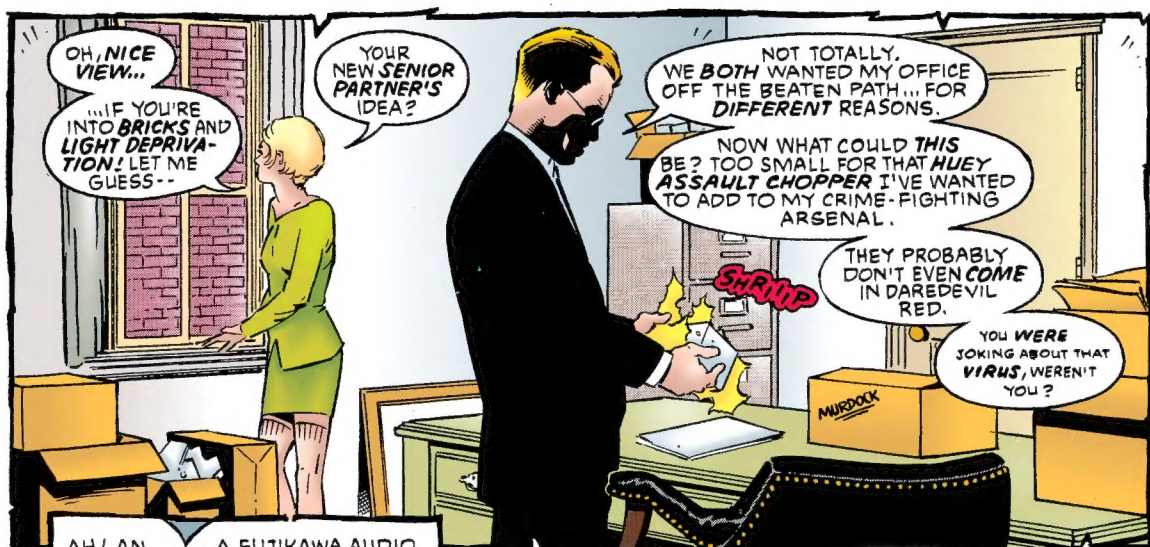
IN IT, SHE THANKS ME FOR KEEPING HER OFF THE STREETS...

...LOCKED AWAY FROM TEMPTATION WHILE SHE KICKED THE DRUG HABIT!



WHAT KIDNAPPING CHARGES, COUNSELOR?





OH, NICE VIEW...

...IF YOU'RE INTO BRICKS AND LIGHT DEPRIVATION! LET ME GUESS--

YOUR NEW SENIOR PARTNER'S IDEA?

NOT TOTALLY. WE BOTH WANTED MY OFFICE OFF THE BEATEN PATH... FOR DIFFERENT REASONS.

NOW WHAT COULD THIS BE? TOO SMALL FOR THAT HUEY ASSAULT CHOPPER I'VE WANTED TO ADD TO MY CRIME-FIGHTING ARSENAL.

THEY PROBABLY DON'T EVEN COME IN DAREDEVIL RED.

YOU WERE JOKING ABOUT THAT VIRUS, WEREN'T YOU?

AH! AN EMBOSSED LOGO FOR...

...A FUJIKAWA AUDIO RECEIVER? VERY NICE, KAREN! THANK YOU! I'LL THINK OF YOU EVERY TIME I LISTEN TO IT!

THIS IS PRETTY HIGH-END-- EXHIBIT "A" THAT YOU FOUND THE RIGHT JOB AT LONG LAST?

WELL, Um...

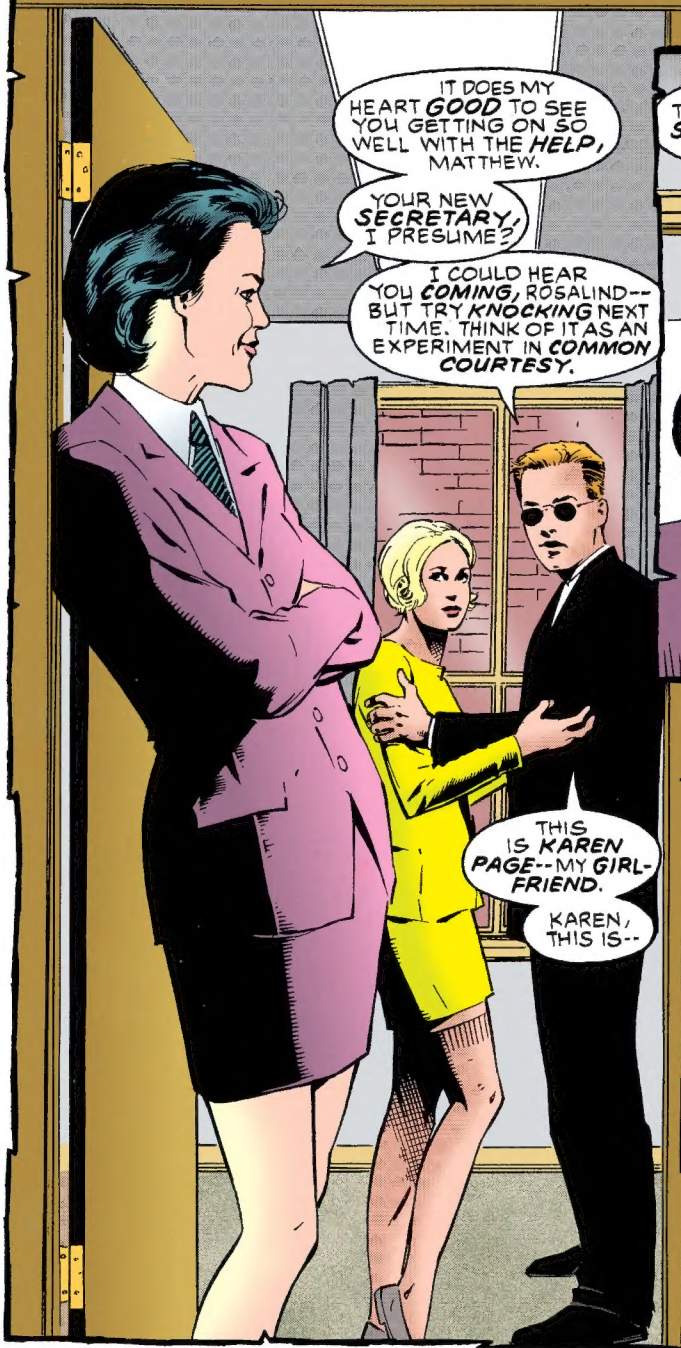
THERE'S SOMETHING... I MEAN THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF... IF I SHOULD...

LOOK, GIVE ME A FEW DAYS, MATT, OKAY? I THINK I COULD TELL YOU EVERYTHING IN A FEW DAYS.

TRUST ME.

I LOVE YOU. OF COURSE I TRUST YOU.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T WORRY ABOUT--



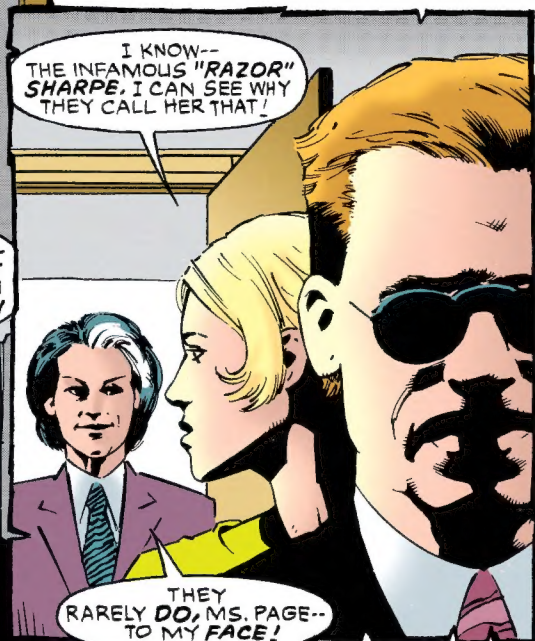
IT DOES MY HEART **GOOD** TO SEE YOU GETTING ON SO WELL WITH THE **HELP**, MATTHEW.

YOUR NEW **SECRETARY**, I PRESUME?

I COULD HEAR YOU **COMING**, ROSALIND-- BUT TRY **KNOCKING** NEXT TIME. THINK OF IT AS AN EXPERIMENT IN **COMMON COURTESY**.

THIS IS **KAREN PAGE**--MY GIRL-FRIEND.

KAREN, THIS IS--

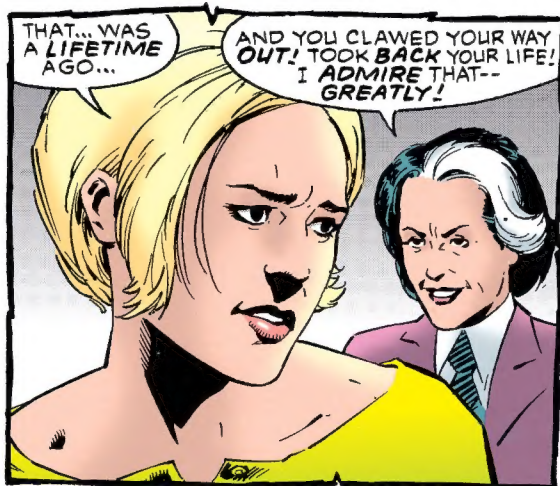


I KNOW-- THE INFAMOUS "**RAZOR**" **SHARPE**. I CAN SEE WHY THEY CALL HER THAT!

THEY RARELY **DO**, MS. PAGE-- TO MY **FACE**!

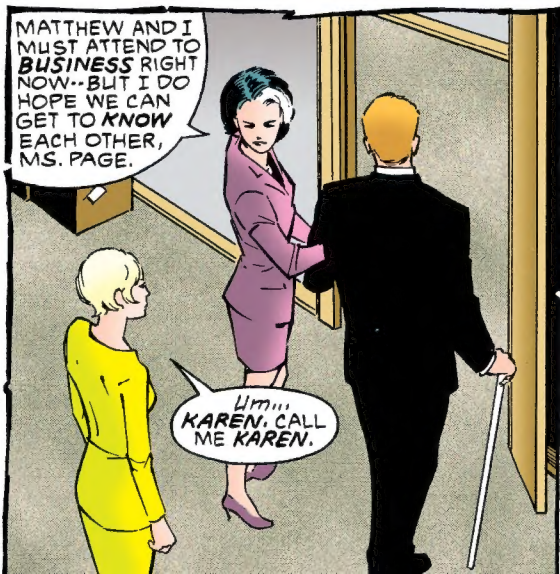
BUT THEN, YOU'VE ALWAYS MADE YOUR **OWN** MISTAKES, HAVEN'T YOU? SUCH AS YOUR LIFE IN HOLLYWOOD'S **FAST LANE**...

...BY FAR THE MOST **FASCINATING** STONE I TURNED OVER WHILE BACKGROUND CHECKING MY NEW **PARTNERS**!



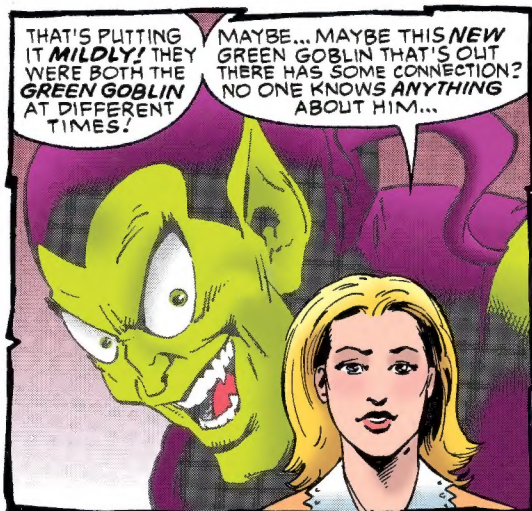
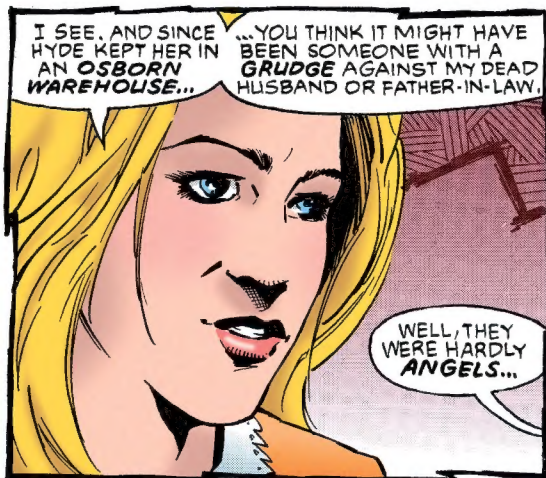
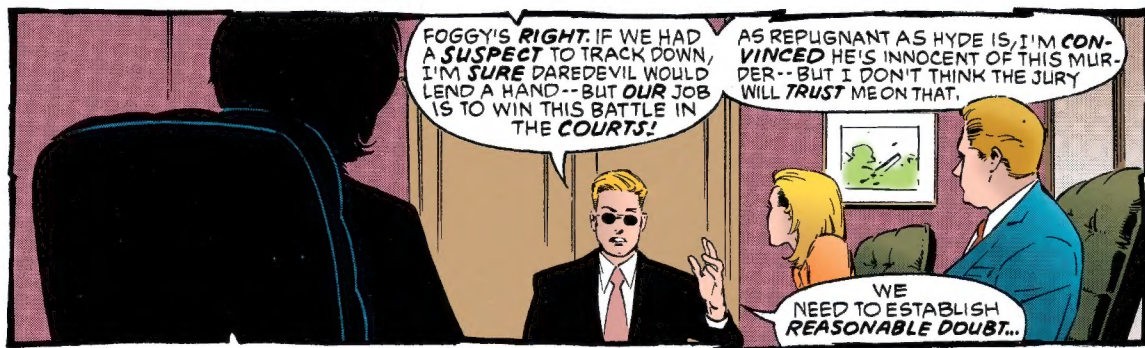
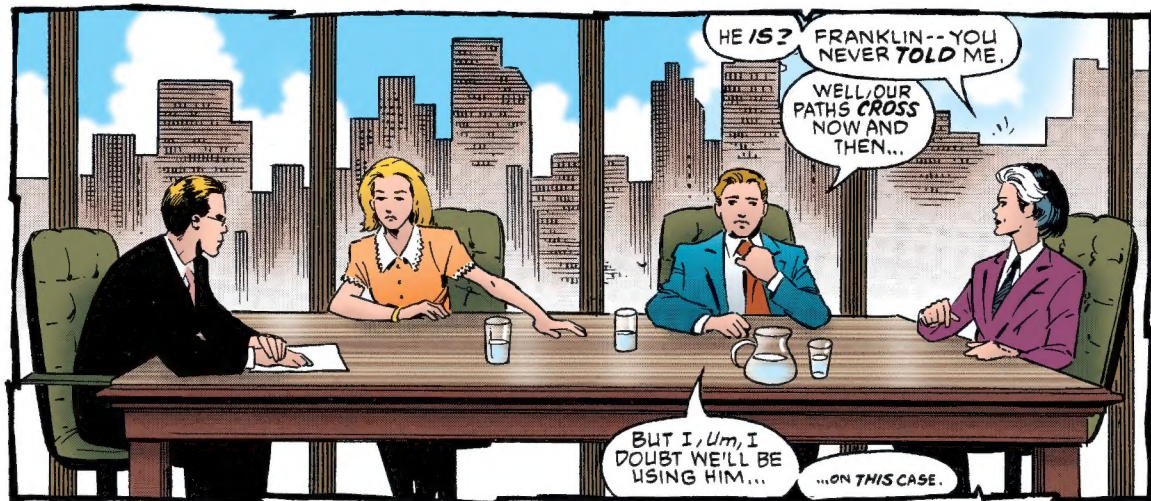
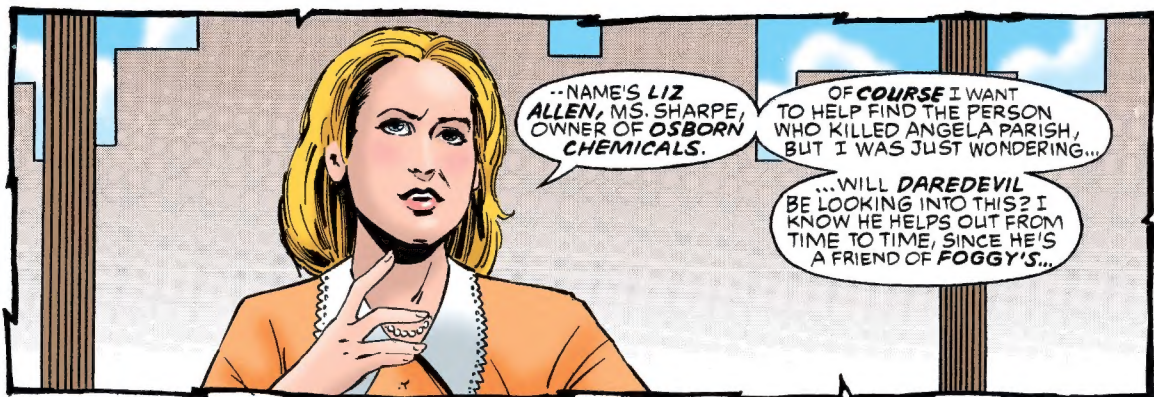
THAT... WAS A **LIFETIME** AGO...

AND YOU CLAWED YOUR WAY **OUT**! TOOK **BACK** YOUR LIFE! I ADMIRE THAT-- **GREATLY**!



MATTHEW AND I MUST ATTEND TO **BUSINESS** RIGHT NOW--BUT I DO HOPE WE CAN GET TO **KNOW** EACH OTHER, MS. PAGE.

UM... **KAREN**. CALL ME **KAREN**.





WELL, I THINK **BEN URICH** KNOWS SOMETHING!

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO PUT HIM UNDER OATH! AND IF HE TRIES TO HIDE BEHIND A REPORTER'S "CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES"--

PUM

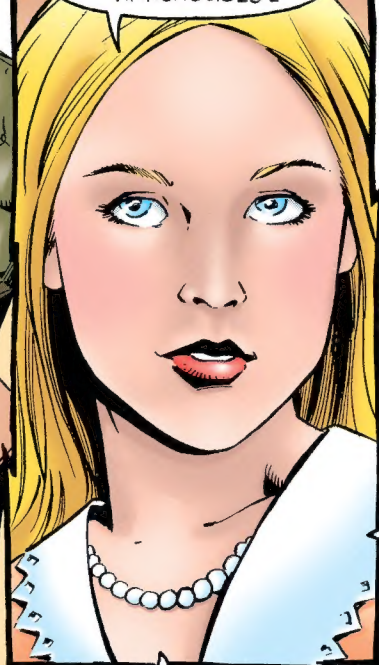
EASY, FOGGY-- THAT'S A NEW TABLE!

MAYBE I'M NIT-PICKING, BUT BEFORE BEN'S LOCKED UP FOR CONTEMPT I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE SURE WE HAVE A VIABLE SUSPECT.

THE WAREHOUSE WAS PADLOCKED CLOSED--AND HYDE BROKE THAT TO GET IN. COULD THIS NEW GOBLIN HAVE A KEY TO THAT LOCK?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IF THIS GOBLIN KNOWS ALL THE ORIGINAL'S SECRETS, HE WOULDN'T NEED A KEY.

NORMAN OSBORN HAD HIDDEN ENTRANCES BUILT INTO JUST ABOUT EVERY ONE OF HIS WAREHOUSES!

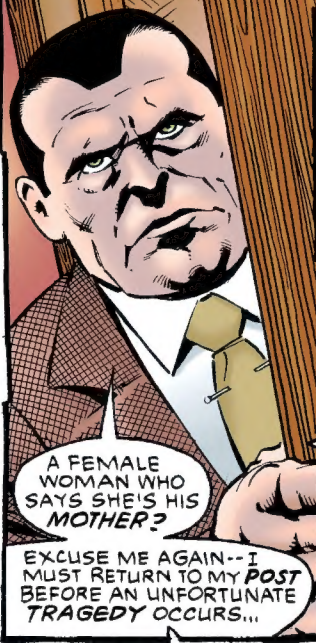


MATT... FRANKLIN...

...I SMELL ACQUITTAL!



EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTION, MS. SHARPE, BUT ALL PHONE LINES HAVE NOT BEEN INSTALLED AND THERE IS A CALL FOR MR. NELSON.



A FEMALE WOMAN WHO SAYS SHE'S HIS MOTHER?

EXCUSE ME AGAIN--I MUST RETURN TO MY POST BEFORE AN UNFORTUNATE TRAGEDY OCCURS...

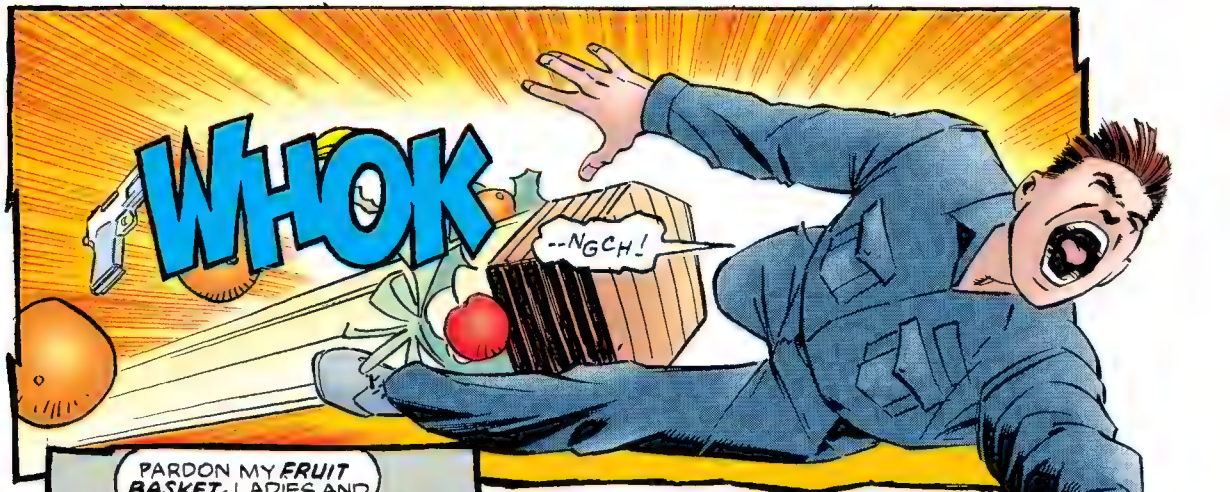
OH, Um, THANK YOU, SUNNY.

I'LL, Um, I'LL TAKE IT IN MY OFFICE... IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ROSALIND?



OF COURSE, FRANKLIN. GIVE HER MY BEST...





PARDON MY FRUIT BASKET, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

...BUT I HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING PAST THE RECEPTIONIST!



NOW GET DOWN AND STAY DOWN!

GOOD BOY!

HADN'T EXACTLY PLANNED FOR THAT GIFT TO BE USED AS A WEAPON, YOU KNOW.

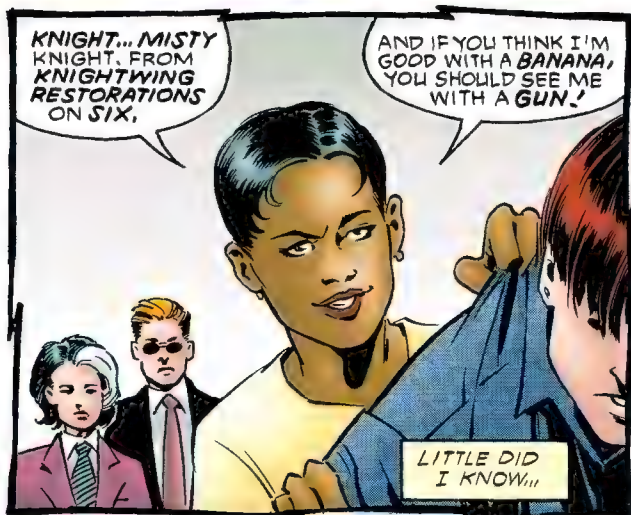
WAS KIND OF HOPING IT'D GET MY COMPANY IN GOOD WITH OUR NEW NEIGHBOR--IN CASE THEY NEEDED ANY INVESTIGATING WORK DONE...

NGH!



I THINK IT SERVED ITS PURPOSE ADMIRABLY-- DON'T YOU, MATT?

IN FACT, I GUARANTEE WE'LL SEND BUSINESS YOUR WAY, MS.--?



KNIGHT... MISTY KNIGHT, FROM KNIGHTWING RESTORATIONS ON SIX,

AND IF YOU THINK I'M GOOD WITH A BANANA, YOU SHOULD SEE ME WITH A GUN!

LITTLE DID I KNOW...

... THREE HOURS
LATER I'D FIND OUT
FOR MYSELF!

I THOUGHT
YOU KNEW I WAS
ONE OF THE **GOOD GUYS**,
LADY-- THAT'S THE ONLY
REASON I LET MY
GUARD DOWN...

AND IT'S THE ONLY REASON I
DIDN'T SHOOT THE MINUTE I **SAW** YOU!
WHAT'RE YOU **DOING** HERE, DAREDEVIL?

DO THE WORDS
"**OPEN SESAME**"
MEAN ANYTHING
TO YOU?

MISTY,
RIGHT? MISTY
KNIGHT?

YEAH.

SO... YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR THE
POSSIBLE **SECRET**
ENTRANCE TO THIS
PLACE, TOO?

BUT YOU
COLLARED HYDE-- WHY
WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING
TO HELP HIM **WALK**?

YOU EXPECT
LOGIC FROM SOMEONE
WHO DRESSES LIKE A
DEVIL AND WANTS PEOPLE
TO THINK HE'S A **HERO**?

KNIGHTWING
RESTORATIONS DOESN'T
USUALLY TAKE ON JOBS
LIKE **THIS**, EITHER. WHAT'S
YOUR EXCUSE?


WELL, WHEN ROSALIND SHARPE
OFFERED ME THE CASE, I WASN'T
SURE, BUT...

... **MURDOCK**-- HE'S SURE.
HE CONVINCED **ME**... AND
HE'S **RIGHT**-- NO ONE
SHOULD GO DOWN FOR A
CRIME THEY DIDN'T
COMMIT

NOT EVEN
SLIME LIKE
HYDE.

I'M SURE HE WISHES
THERE WERE ELEVEN
MORE **JUST LIKE**
YOU OUT THERE,
MISTY.

COME ON--
LET'S SEE IF
WE CAN MAKE
HIS JOB A
LITTLE
EASIER...



MISTY MOVES WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF A PROFESSIONAL WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S SEARCHING FOR.

I STAND THERE LIKE A BROKEN DISNEY ANIMATRONIC AND HOPE SHE DOESN'T NOTICE.

BEING BLIND, I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT LOOKING FOR THINGS...

...WITH MY EYES.

I LIKE TO THINK MY REMAINING HEIGHTENED SENSES MAKE UP FOR THAT.

I TELL YOU, DD--YOU AND PYRO DID A REAL PIECE OF WORK ON THIS PLACE...*

I START SIFTING THROUGH A THOUSAND SENSATIONS, TUNING THEM OUT ONE BY ONE.


IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT **SHOULDN'T** BE HERE.

* LAST ISSUE, -- The Prof.

THE CONSTANT MURMUR OF THE RIVER AND CITY... THE BITTER TANG OF CHARRED WOOD... MISTY'S VOICE...

TORCHED IT JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE TOSSING IT A REAL CHALLENGE...

NOTHING PERSONAL.



ANYTHING THAT BELONGS... ANYTHING I CAN ACCOUNT FOR IS ONLY A DISTRACTION.

A BAD MEMORY.

HYDE'S OPPRESSIVE, LINGERING SCENT.

A PLANK STAINED WITH A YOUNG GIRL'S BLOOD

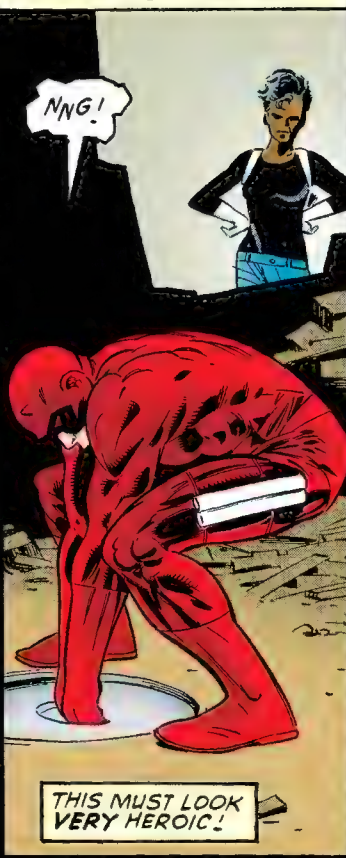
SWEAT AND DEATH AND...

...AND...



I'VE GOT SOMETHING!

OH, WONDERFUL! THE COLLAPSING BUILDING JAMMED THE HATCH **SHUT!** AND ME WITHOUT THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A **DEVIL!**



NNG!

THIS MUST LOOK VERY HEROIC!



NEED A HAND, DD?

WHAT-- THIS? PIECE OF CAKE!



BUT IF YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY...

YEAH, RIGHT.

OKAY-- YOU'LL HAVE TO BRACE ME. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY ARM HERE...

THIS ISN'T JUST SOME CHEAP TRICK TO GET CLOSE TO ME, IS IT?

PUH-LEASE! I'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND AND WE BOTH BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME THINGS AND SOME PEOPLE...

...THAT HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH...



...WITH AN IRON FIST!

KRIEEEEENK

IT HAPPENS SO FAST,
I'M CAUGHT OFF-
BALANCE. THERE'S
THE SOUND OF
TEARING METAL AND...

REENGK

HYDRAULICS.
LUBRICATED
PISTONS.
TITANIUM
CABLES.

SO... BIONIC,
Huh?

JUST
MY ARM.
HOW--?

OH, WE
SUPER HEROES HAVE
WAYS... AND BY-LAWS
THAT PREVENT US
FROM TELLING YOU
ABOUT THEM.

I THINK IT'S
GETTING PRETTY
DEEP AROUND
HERE...

I'LL SAY! TWENTY-
SEVEN FEET STRAIGHT
DOWN!

Um... YOU WERE TALKING
ABOUT THIS TUNNEL,
WEREN'T YOU?

DOES IT
MATTER?

NOW THAT WE'VE
FOUND THIS, I'VE FULFILLED
MY CONTRACT. ALL THAT'S
LEFT IS REPORTING BACK
AND TEDIOUS PAPER-
WORK...

THE EXCITING
LIFE OF A PRIVATE
INVESTIGATOR...

GUESS THAT'S WHY I'M A
MASKED VIGILANTE, MISTY--
IF I WANTED TO FILL THINGS
OUT IN TRIPLICATE, I'D BE A
LAWYER!

BUT THIS HORNHEAD
WOULD RATHER RUSH
IN WHERE ANGELS
FEAR TO TREAD!

DON'T WAIT UP,
I MAY BE A
WHILE...



WAIT-- YOU NEED A LIGHT DOWN THERE?

YOU KIDDING? I'M THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR-- I'M NOT SCARED OF A LITTLE DARK!



GO HOME, MISTY-- I STUB MY TOE, IT'S MY OWN FAULT!



THAT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN, OF COURSE. NO LIGHT? NO PROBLEM! THANKS TO MY HYPER-SENSES...

... AND RADAR SENSE!

FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT ISN'T EXACTLY MYST-LEVEL GRAPHICS, BUT IT PICKS OUT THE COLLAPSED TUNNEL JUST FINE.

KAREN ALWAYS LIKED ASTEROIDS BETTER ANYWAY.

SO MUCH FOR THE GOOD NEWS.



... SILICON COMPOUND? HOW'D THIS GET--?

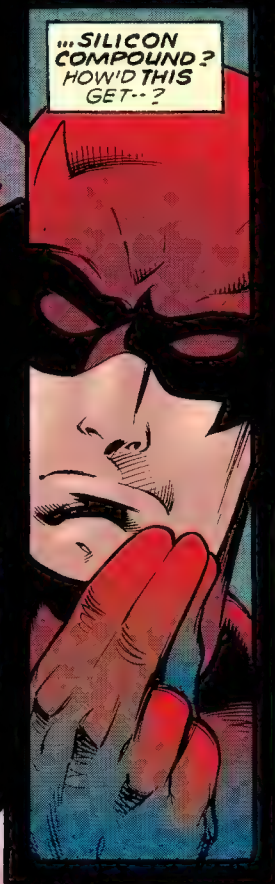
OF COURSE! HYDE'S OLD PARTNER-- COBRA!

WORD IS THEIR PARTING WAS WORSE THAN A BAD DIVORCE! NO ONE WOULD LIKE TO STICK IT TO HYDE MORE!

I'M NO CON-TORTIONIST LIKE COBRA, BUT I CAN MOVE THIS DEBRIS WITH GOOD OLD-FASHIONED ELBOW GREASE.

THE RUBBLE CLEARLY HASN'T BEEN DISTURBED IN A LONG TIME... AND AIR'S COMING THROUGH AN OPENING THAT'S BARELY LARGE ENOUGH FOR YOUR AVERAGE 30-POUND SEWER RAT.

I FEEL MY WINNING ARGUMENTS SLIPPING AWAY LIKE THEY'RE COVERED IN...



AND COBRA CAN'T HIDE HIS TRAIL-- NOT FROM ME!



ABOVE ME, I HEAR
HEARTBEATS AND
LOUD VOICES. SOME
I RECOGNIZE, SOME
I DON'T.

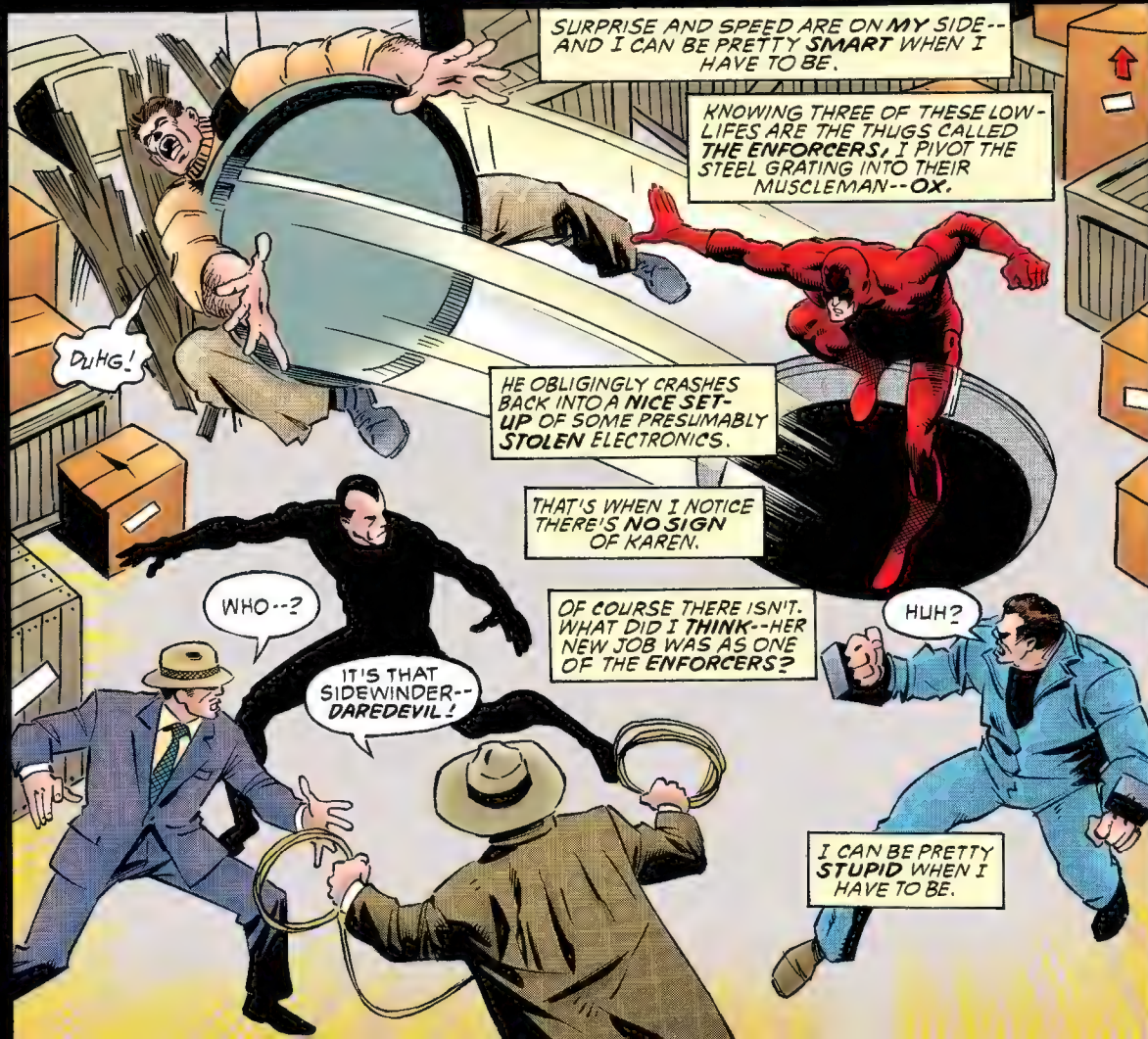
NONE ARE COBRA'S,
BUT HE COULD BE--

WHAT--?

KAREN! I'M SURE
THAT WAS KAREN'S
VOICE!

SIX HOURS.

SIX LONG HOURS THROUGH
SEWERS AND SUBWAYS AND
UTILITY TUNNELS--BILLABLE
TO HYDE AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED.



SURPRISE AND SPEED ARE ON MY SIDE--
AND I CAN BE PRETTY SMART WHEN I
HAVE TO BE.

KNOWING THREE OF THESE LOW-
LIFES ARE THE THUGS CALLED
THE ENFORCERS, I PIVOT THE
STEEL GRATING INTO THEIR
MUSCLEMAN--OX.

HE OBLINGELY CRASHES
BACK INTO A NICE SET-
UP OF SOME PRESUMABLY
STOLEN ELECTRONICS.

THAT'S WHEN I NOTICE
THERE'S NO SIGN
OF KAREN.

OF COURSE THERE ISN'T.
WHAT DID I THINK--HER
NEW JOB WAS AS ONE
OF THE ENFORCERS?

WHO--?

IT'S THAT
SIDEWINDER--
DAREDEVIL!

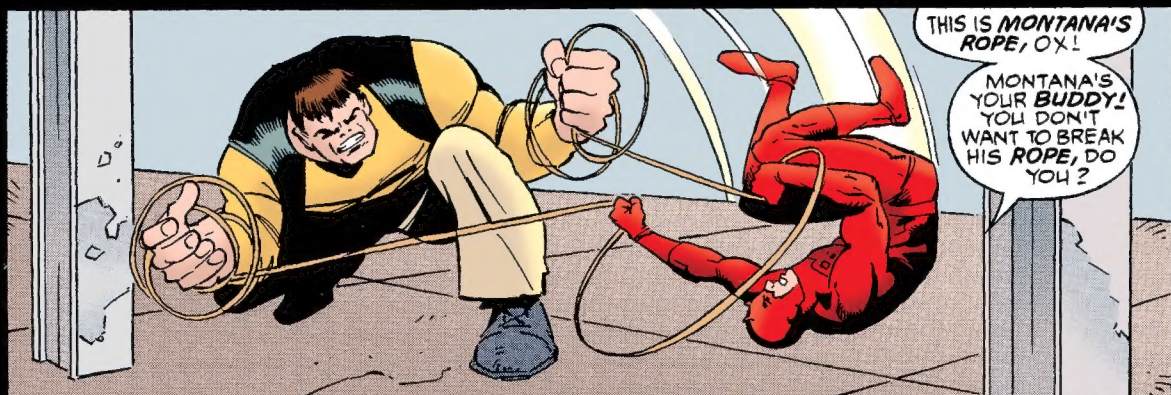
HUH?

I CAN BE PRETTY
STUPID WHEN I
HAVE TO BE.

DUNG!











I HOPE YOU
PREPARED YOURSELF
FOR A **SHOCK**,
DAREDEVIL!

COBRA'S GOT
NOTHING TO DO WITH
THIS PLACE! NO-- YOU
COME **HERE** AND YOU'VE
GOT TO DEAL
WITH--

**--THE
EEL!**

ACID, COPPERY TASTE IN MY
MOUTH. SOUNDS ARE **MUFFLED**
AND FAR AWAY. MUSCLES
SPASMING... UNRESPONDING...

... AND THE DAY
GOT OFF TO
SUCH A **GOOD**
START, TOO.

CONTINUED!